 at least one processing apparatus for transporting the object to be processed to and from the transport chamber.

REMARKS

Claims 14-20, previously withdrawn from consideration, are cancelled. Claims 29-32 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 21-28 remain pending in this application.

Specification

In the Office Action dated August 28, 2002, the Examiner objected to the specification because pages 5 and 6 of the specification make specific reference to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended these pages to delete the references to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 24, 25, and 27 have been amended, and are believed to fully satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. Claims 29 and 31 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of Ukai et al. Claims 30 and 32 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/11/03

By: 
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**APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 4, lines 30-34:

To attain the above-mentioned object, the invention [as defined in Claim 1] is characterized in comprising a step of cleaning a surface of an object to be processed by using ClF_3 gas; and removing chlorine derived from the ClF_3 gas still remaining on the surface of the object under treatment even after the step of cleaning the surface.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 4, lines 35-37:

The invention [as defined in Claim 2] is characterized in that the step of removing chlorine includes a step of removing chlorine from the surface of the object to be processed by using a reducing gas.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 1-2:

The invention [as defined in Claim 3] is characterized in that the reducing gas is H_2 gas.

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Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 3-9:

The invention [as defined in Claim 4] is characterized in comprising the steps of making ClF_3 gas adhere to a surface of an object to be processed by supplying the ClF_3 gas to the surface of the object to be processed; interrupting the supply of the ClF_3 gas to the surface of the object to be processed; and cleaning the surface of the object to be processed by using the ClF_3 gas adhering to the surface of the object to be processed.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 10-12:

The invention [as defined in Claim 5] is characterized in that the object to be processed is cooled to 20°C or below in the step of making ClF_3 gas adhere to the surface of the object.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 13-18:

The invention [as defined in Claim 6] is characterized in comprising a processing vessel in which [a] an object to be processed is placed; a means for supplying a ClF_3 gas into the processing vessel; a means for activating the ClF_3 gas supplied in the processing vessel; and a means for supplying a reducing gas into the processing vessel.

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Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 19-24:

The invention [as defined in Claim 7] is characterized in comprising a processing vessel in which [a] an object to be processed is placed; a means for supplying ClF_3 gas into the processing vessel; a means for promoting adhesion of ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed; and a means for activating ClF_3 gas supplied in the processing vessel.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 25-27:

The invention [as defined in Claim 8] is characterized in further comprising a mount located in the processing vessel to set the object to be processed thereon.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 28-31:

The invention [as defined in Claim 9] is characterized in that the means for promoting adhesion of the ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed is provided in the mount to function to cool the object to be processed on the mount.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 32-35:

The invention [as defined in Claim 10] is characterized in that the means for activating the ClF_3 gas heats the object to be processed in a heating position distant from the object setting position for setting the object on the mount.

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Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 5, lines 36-37, continuing to page 6, line 1:

The invention [as defined in Claim 11] is characterized in further comprising a means for elevating and lowering the object to be processed between the object setting position and the heating position.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 6, lines 2-9:

The invention [as defined in Claim 12] is characterized in comprising the surface processing apparatus [according to any one of claims 6 through 11]; a transport chamber capable of maintaining a non-reactive atmosphere inside and capable of transporting [a] an object to be processed in the non-reactive atmosphere to and from the surface processing apparatus; and one or more processing apparatuses capable of transporting the object to be processed to and from the transport chamber.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph located at page 6, lines 10-12:

The invention [as defined in Claim 13] is characterized in that the processing apparatus is a metal wiring formation chambers for making metal wiring on the object to be processed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 14-20 and 29-32 are cancelled.

Claims 24, 25 and 27 are amended as follows:

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24. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 23, wherein the means for promoting adhesion of the ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed is provided in the mount, the means for promoting adhesion thereby [for] cooling the object to be processed on the mount.

25. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 24, wherein the means for activating the ClF_3 gas heats the object to be processed in a heating position at a distance from an object setting position [for setting] of the object on the mount.

27. (Twice Amended) A cluster device comprising: the apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 21, further comprising:

a transport chamber for maintaining a non-reactive atmosphere therein and for transporting an object to be processed in the non-reactive atmosphere to and from the [surface processing] apparatus for surface treatment; and

at least one processing apparatus for transporting the object to be processed to and from the transport chamber.

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